

PROLIFEROUS COPOLYMER OF  
VINYL PYRROLIDONE AND VINYL ACETATE

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED U.S. PATENT APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application Serial No. 10/071,753, filed 2/7/2002, <sup>pat no 6,620,900 B2</sup> and assigned to the same assignee as herein.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

This invention relates to an excipient for a pharmaceutical tablet, and, more particularly, to an excipient which is a proliferous copolymer of vinyl pyrrolidone and vinyl acetate, providing the tablet with both rapid dissolution and disintegration properties, and reduced hygroscopicity.

2. Description of the Prior Art

Zhong, Y. et al, in U.S. Pat. 5,663,258, described a strongly swellable, moderately crosslinked copolymer of vinyl pyrrolidone and vinyl acetate made by precipitation polymerization in the presence of a free radical initiator. The copolymer obtained by this process had unique gel volume and viscosity properties which enabled it to thicken aqueous and non-aqueous solutions effectively.